

National Energy and Climate Plans should emphasize clean innovation in the building sector

12 December 2023 – A [new report](#) was published today that assesses how EU Member States intend to integrate into their legislation new measures to boost innovation in buildings. These new EU requirements were introduced as part of the [Fit for 55 package](#), the overall plan to reduce the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Currently EU countries have prepared draft [National Energy and Climate Plans](#) (NECPs) to implement these changes at national level, with the final versions for all EU 27 countries due by June 2024.

With the aim to contribute to the discussion on innovation in buildings, the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) project that backs the [Implementation Working Group on Energy Efficiency in Buildings](#)* (IWG5 Buildings), has prepared an analysis of eight policy measures that - if implemented well at national level – can boost the large-scale introduction of innovative technologies in the building sector:

1. Starting point - Comparing 2023 draft with 2018 NECP and general level of plan's ambition
2. Public buildings – New requirements for yearly 3% renovation and public procurement
3. New target for innovative renewable energy technologies
4. Links to SET Plan - Participation & integration in national context
5. Phase-out of fossil fuel boilers – Measures to limit or phase out fossil boilers
6. Financial incentives for R&D in buildings
7. Skills – Identify gaps in labor market and define measures
8. Other measures – Measures particular to a country not covered in previous points

The report does a qualitative analysis of six EU countries: Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and Germany. One of the main findings is that only one out of six countries has included all main Fit for 55 measures on buildings, where most NECP drafts submitted by November 2023 were incomplete. The report recommends that most EU member states resubmit a second draft by spring 2024. The drafts also miss clear timelines and measures to reduce and phase out fossil fuel boilers, what is expected to perpetuate the dominance of natural gas individual boilers in buildings. The analysis identifies best practices that go beyond EU requirements that may work in other countries, such as the use of pre-commercial public procurement to support new technologies and creating private-public partnership in key sectors.

Annett Kühn, IWG5 Buildings Chair said: “We encourage Member States to further develop measures supporting R&D&I in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies for buildings, as this will be essential to achieve 2030 climate and energy targets as well as to move to a net zero economy.”

For more information, you can [download the report](#) or [view this factsheet](#) with its key take aways.

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Background information on IWG5 Buildings:

[IWG5 Buildings](#) is part of the European [Strategic Energy Technology \(SET\) Plan](#) and it provides technical recommendations to the Steering Group. IWG5 Buildings is composed of government representatives of European and associated countries, industrial stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, and research institutes. It provides expert knowledge on decarbonizing both new and existing buildings, via innovative technologies and supportive policy measures. Its two main areas of focus are energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy technologies. The IWG5 is supported by a CSA, coordinated by EUREC, in collaboration with ECTP, EURAC Research and WIP Renewable Energies. To stay informed about the project, subscribe to the [project newsletter](#) and social media channels (X, LinkedIn).